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## The Senatorial Campaign Opens Up Very Quietly

### ABOUT 800 PEOPLE HEAR CANDIDATES

#### SPEAKERS GIVEN RESPECTFUL HEARING.

About 200 Ladies Present—County  
Chairman Dreher Presided—Good  
Order Prevailed.

St. Matthews, June 17.—The long awaited and much talked of contest for United States senator was officially opened here today, when Senator E. D. Smith, Governor Cole, L. Blease, the Hon. W. P. Pollock, of Cheraw, and Mayor L. D. Jennings, of Sumter, "the big four" aspirants for the seat in the upper house of congress now held by the first named, spoke before a crowd of about eight hundred, probably two hundred of whom were ladies of Calhoun county, and citizens from several adjoining counties. County Chairman T. H. Dreher presided, and pretty good order was preserved throughout the meeting, which was held on the school grounds. Each candidate was accorded a respectful hearing, and while it was evident that the Smith adherents were in the majority, supporters of the governor were not lacking.

The crowd was seemingly impressed with Messrs Pollock and Jennings, who are making their debut in politics of a State-wide character. Although the meeting was devoid of anything like enthusiasm, the audience manifested considerable interest in all the speeches.

#### Smith Denies Allegations.

The only incident that gave promise of any real excitement occurred when Governor Blease, who spoke first, referred to James L. Sims, United States marshal, and William E. Gonzales, minister to Cuba, as having secured their appointments through Senator Smith. The senator interrupted with the remark, "I had no more to do with the appointment of Gonzales than did Cole, L. Blease."

When the governor declared that "James L. Sims, another Smith appointee, admitted he helped to get out a nigger paper," Senator Smith again interrupted with "Sims was Tillman's appointee."

The governor then read a letter from Senator Tillman to W. J. Shelton, which said, "Senator Smith and I have agreed about the United States marshal, and Mr. Sims, of Orangeburg, will be appointed"—the governor adding, "If it's a lie, Ben Tillman wrote it and I don't believe Old Ben would lie for a Republican." Senator Smith again arose and advanced to the front of the platform, and standing by the governor said he supposed the latter wanted to be fair, explaining that he and Tillman had agreed on the marshal and that each would have a man for district attorney, and declared the senator vigorously, no man living in the image of God, can call me a liar. Chairman Dreher interfered, Senator Smith returned to his seat, and with, "Well, Mr. Tillman wrote the letter," from the governor, the incident was closed.

The Columbia Record of Wednesday had the following to say of the incident:

"The governor then read a letter to W. J. Shelton, Columbia hotel, Columbia, from B. R. Tillman, in which the latter states that he and Senator Smith agreed upon the appointment of Sims. 'Some one has lied,' said Blease, 'and, with all old Ben Tillman's faults, I believe he tells the truth.'"

"At this juncture Senator Smith arose to his feet, and faced Governor Blease, saying: 'I believe you desire to be fair, and keep the record straight. I tell you that Sims is an appointee of Senator Tillman; and no living man made in the image of God can call me a liar.'"

The governor declared he would have one hundred thousand copies of his speech printed and distributed. After his speech the governor left the grounds.

#### Jennings Introduces Himself.

Mayor Jennings told the crowd a great deal about himself, by way of introduction, of his early struggles and present material success. Said if life lasts and his voice holds out he will show the people of the State that neither Smith nor Blease is fit to sit in the Senate of the United States; that the State might be wrong some time, but was bound to right herself and was not dependent on Bleasism or Smithism. To show that he, besides being a lawyer, is also a real farmer, having been born on a farm, Mr. Jennings stated that he runs seventy-five ploughs and plants fourteen hundred acres of cotton. He promised that the voters would hear more during this campaign about who is the poor man's friend.

He defended the action of the State convention in changing the rules, declaring that the only new regulation was that requiring each voter to appear in person and sign the club roll. "Ask anyone who charges it to show where the new rules deprive any man of his vote," he said, adding that the change was made because under the old rules there was no provision as to how voters should enroll, which made it easy for frauds to be perpetrated, especially in the larger cities, where names could be taken from tombstones and from other counties and given to the secretary to place on roll.

#### Defends National Platform.

Mr. Jennings defended the national democratic platform with the exception of the tolls plank, declaring this was "slipped in." He said the party in Washington did right in sustaining President Wilson in tolls fight, and declared himself in favor of all the president's policies. "Are you going to send one to Washington opposed to the president?" he asked, adding, "You have the right." Mr. Jennings was undecided whether he was at a disadvantage or an advantage by not having a political record. "Some others in the race have political records," he said. "Some records I do not envy." He has no record except that as mayor of Sumter, but will have more to say about records before the campaign is over. He says he's in the race, not from a political ambition to be called a United States senator, but wanted to show the people that things should not be as they are, and will represent all the people.

#### W. P. Pollock Heard.

Mr. Pollock said he hoped the campaign would be one for order and decency; that he is not the candidate of any clique or caucus; is in no combination, and makes no promises except that of faithful service to the State. He referred to his eight years' service in the legislature from Chesterfield county, and claimed he was the first member of the house to advocate State support of free country schools.

Replying to Governor Blease's remarks about corporation lawyers, Mr. Pollock said many of them were better "than the men who stood here and lambasted them." He said he never represented a railroad except in cases involving disputes between railroads. He said if elected to senate he would not come back and "throw sand in people's eyes" by telling them "what I did in committee," where "nobody knows what goes on."

Governor Blease charged that Mr. Pollock had voted against a "Jim Crow" bill and in reply Mr. Pollock said: "In that most remarkable address if it can be dignified with the word 'address,' the gentleman who spoke first took occasion to speak about my vote on the 'Jim Crow' bill. I don't know whether it was correctly read in full or not. That was twenty years ago, when there was race issue and the railroads were poor and merely existing, and good men, as white as Cole, Blease voted as I might have done."

#### Cheers and Flowers.

Mr. Pollock stated that later, when conditions warranted it, he, as chairman of the railroad committee of the house, drew a substitute for a separate

## Sumter People Listen All Day To Candidates

### ELEVEN CANDIDATES FOR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

#### GOOD ORDER REIGNS AT OPENING MEETING.

Candidates For Governor Discuss  
State-wide Issues—Fully 1,200  
People Hear Candidates.

W. F. Caldwell in News and Courier.

Sumter, June 17.—Enforcement of the law and increased educational facilities were the issues developed by the candidates for Governor here today in the initial meeting of the county-to-county canvass of the candidates for States offices, which met with the enthusiastic support of the majority of the audience of twelve hundred people, who crowded the court house and utilized every inch of available standing room, judging from the applause which met the sentiments expressed by John G. Clinkscales and R. A. Cooper, when they termed these the paramount issues.

Richard I. Manning was given an ovation by the people, this being his home. He did not make a regular speech, but gave his time to the other candidates. Chas. A. Smith came out for State-wide prohibition, and John G. Clinkscales, besides advocating stripes for blind tigers and pistol "toters," said if elected governor he would do all in his power to break up race track gambling in Charleston and suppress the blind tigers in Columbia.

It is evident from the meeting here today that the campaign will be conducted on a high plane free from bitterness and personal abuse, and that the people will demand a discussion of issues.

(Later we will print something of the platform of the other candidates and today we give the speeches of the candidates for governor as reported by the News and Courier.)

The following is a list of the other candidates:

For Lieutenant Governor—Andrew J. Bethea, W. M. Hamer, J. A. Hunter, B. Frank Kelley.  
Comptroller General—A. W. Jones, J. A. Summerset.  
State Treasurer—S. T. Carter.  
State Superintendent Education—J. E. Swearingen.  
Attorney General—A. G. Brice, Thos. H. Peeples.  
Railroad Commissioner—Geo. W. Fairley, C. D. Fortner, F. W. Shealy, John H. Wharton, W. I. Witherspoon, James Cansler.  
Adjutant General—W. C. Willis, W. W. Moore.)

#### Candidates for Governor.

It was 1:15 when the candidates for governor opened. In introducing Ricard I. Manning as "Sumter's favorite son and the next governor of South Carolina," Chairman Clifton brought a cheer from the audience which turned into a demonstration for Mr. Manning, which lasted several minutes. Mr. Manning briefly thanked the people of Sumter for the support they had always given him and said he would give way to the other candidates. He announced his candidacy for governor and said he stood for enforcement of the law, whether directed against the pistol "toter," the "lick liquor dealer, or race track gambling. He said he stood in the position of most today, but said he wanted to say a word to his fellow candidates. He referred to newspaper talk of canvasses as "circuses" as a reflection and he said a new era had dawned in political speaking in South Carolina and he pleaded for a campaign on a high order and an avoidance of personal bitterness and abuse.

#### Lowndes J. Browning.

Lowndes J. Browning followed Mr. Manning. He announced himself a democrat, praised President Wilson and drew applause when he said there was no coalition in South Carolina big enough for Lowndes Browning to swing to. He advocated State aid to tenant farmers to own their own land. He thinks the State ought to loan the tenant farmers \$1,000 to \$2,000 at a low rate of interest for long terms, say

twenty years, and thus give the tenant farmer a chance to buy the land and give them plenty of time in which to pay back the loan. He said there were some 30,000 tenant farmers in the State. Abolishment of the personal State tax and a substitution for it of a graduated tax on incomes and inheritances were advocated by the speaker. He said the present and was. He said the present State tax on incomes was a farce and was not enforced. He attacked the present system of real estate taxation as unjust and inequitable.

At 1:40 p. m. a recess was taken until 3:30 p. m. for lunch.

#### John G. Clinkscales.

John G. Clinkscales, of Spartanburg, was the first candidate to speak in the afternoon. Mr. Clinkscales said the people had a right to know the principles for which a man stands when he becomes a candidate for governor, and he proceeded to outline his platform. "I am running on my own motion and as others have said here today," said Mr. Clinkscales, in a half serious, half humorous vein. Mr. Clinkscales told how his wife had opposed him running for the United States senate a few years ago, when some friends were urging him, and of how he had finally won her consent to make the race for governor.

"Obedience to law," was the first matter discussed by Mr. Clinkscales. "If I am elected governor, I will throw my whole energy into enforcing the laws and to redeem my State from where she has gone and been made a laughing stock," said the speaker amid loud applause. He laid emphasis on the duty of the governor to enforce all law and promised he would do this if elected. Stripes for pistol "toters" instead of a fine was one measure advocated by Mr. Clinkscales. He said every man who carried a pistol was not a coward and referred to the killing of John M. Cannon, of Laurens, by Young Sullivan, and said he knew the Sullivans and they were not cowards. The blood of Cannon, said the speaker, was not only on Young Sullivan, but in a measure, on the people of the State.

"It's the biggest farce on earth, the way we have been dealing with blind tigers," said Prof. Clinkscales, advocating the stripes and chaingang sentences for blind tigers. In sarcastic vein he demanded the men who said "Got to have some money to run the city government" and fined the illicit whiskey dealers. "You let it be known in Charleston, Sumter or Spartanburg, that a fellow who sells liquor in violation of law is going to wear stripes and there will be less of them," said the speaker with flashing eyes and cheers from the crowd.

Reform of court procedure and less use of technicalities were touched on and he was just warming up when Chairman Clifton called time on him. Loud cheers greeted Prof. Clinkscales as he came down from the stand.

#### R. A. Cooper.

"Enforcement of the law is the most important question of the day," said R. A. Cooper, of Laurens, candidate for governor, in opening his speech. Telling of his ten years' service as solicitor Mr. Cooper dwelt on the necessity of law enforcement. He told of the great power placed in the hands of the governor and his power to open the doors of the penitentiary. "I am glad that there is in this State a demand that in this campaign we must discuss issues," said Mr. Cooper amid cheers. "If I am elected governor I will do all in my power to stop race track gambling in Charleston and suppress blind tigers in Columbia and be governor of all the people," said Solicitor Cooper. He said he had no friends to reward and no enemies to punish, but he governor of all the people, a sentiment which drew a mighty cheer from the crowded court room. Increased educational facilities, especially for the rural schools; good roads, intelligent expenditures of the taxpayers' money, the establishment of a demonstration school by Clemson College in every county to bring the advantages of that great school to the door of every farmer, State aid to assist every white

## Opening Address Of Gov. Cole. L. Blease

Delivered at St. Matthews on Wednesday, June 17, in  
the United States Senatorial Campaign--The  
Speech in Full.

Fellow Citizens of South Carolina:

I presume it would be useless to take up your time to remind you of how the Democratic clubs of 1912 were packed by the people of the towns and cities, of what class of men controlled those clubs, the county conventions, and later the State Convention—the corporation lawyers, the bankers, the cotton mill heads—particularly the railroad attorneys of prominence—in fact, the aristocracy, so-called, of this State; and then later the conducting of the primary election, the action of the State Executive Committee in trying to steal the election and defeat the will of the majority by claiming that there was fraud in the primary; the sub-committee that was appointed, which was not satisfied with meeting in this State, but having a North Carolinian, "Seaboard Bill," at its head, went over into his native State to hold a meeting at Charlotte. All these matters are too fresh in your minds for it to be necessary for me to reiterate them here.

This year we were told, "Let's have peace, let's have no factionalism, let's have quietude in politics." The other side held out that they wanted peace. Yet we find, when they appeared at their club meetings throughout the State, something happens which has never been known to take place in the history of the State before—this crowd comes with a printed ballot ready to hand around. In other places where they were not printed they were typewritten, which is practically the same. They packed their club meetings with every man that they could get to come, notwithstanding their cry, "Let's have no factionalism." In some counties they went so far as to carry negroes to the Democratic club meetings for the purpose of controlling the selection of delegates to the county convention. In the town of Newberry, Ward 2 club, one William Y. Fair, who for years has been a pronounced Republican, and who held the appointment of postmaster at Newberry as a Republican until he was dismissed by a Republican for being wrong in his accounts, was elected a delegate to the county convention. When the Democratic county conventions convened they were packed with town delegates. Particularly is this true of the Ward 1 club of the city of Columbia—a ward which had three candidates for the office of Mayor and two for the office of Alderman in an election which was held the day after the county convention. Notwithstanding the interest that was taken in this election, and the number of candidates from this ward, including all three of the candidates for Mayor—this ward only polled 526 votes, which would have entitled them under the rules—one delegate for each twenty-five members—to twenty-one delegates in the county convention. Yet on the day previous this ward was represented in the county convention by fifty-three delegates. When their attention was called to it in the convention, Christie Benet, secretary of the State Democratic Executive Committee, and one of the delegates from this ward, "took the floor and said: "We have 1330 names on the Ward 1 roll. I think that this is an infernal fraud." Yet the secretary of the State Democratic Executive Committee and a member of this ward club consents to fifty-three delegates being seated in this convention as the representatives of 526 actual voters—thirty-two delegates more than they are entitled to. He says that it is an "infernal fraud," but votes for its perpetuation. I am informed that similar conditions existed in Ward 1 in Spartanburg—the ward represented by the Chairman of the State Democracy. These are the men that arrogate to themselves the purifying of the primary, and are attempting to deprive the laboring classes of our State from participating therein.

In the county of Newberry, the county convention elected one Joseph L. Keitt chairman of the Democratic party of Newberry county—a man who years ago left the Democratic party and became the leader of the Populists in this State, and who was a candidate for office on the Populist ticket. Yet this is the man who is today chairman of the Democracy of Newberry county, chosen by a packed convention of illegal delegates, chosen by clubs whose lists of membership were made up from rolls, as was the case in other counties, which included dead men and men who had long since moved away. In the county of Dorchester, where they had control, they elected as a member of the State Democratic Executive Committee a man who openly and publicly bolted the Democratic ticket and worked for McKinley for president against the then Democratic nominee. There are many other instances in the various counties which I could give, but it would take too much of my time and cost me too much to have it printed. The citizens of each county, however, know the conditions in their own county. I only give these few instances in order to open your eyes and show you that the other side have appealed to the negro, have appealed to the old-line Hasskellites who themselves appealed to the negro, and have appealed to the Populists, to all come back and claim to be Democrats in order to defeat the will of the people and to defeat Blease and his friends.

Now, look at your State Convention. Who composed it? The people from the various counties know who they were. You know what their past political affiliations have been. You know what their occupations were and are. The president of that convention—James A. Hoyt, is a corporation man and the president of three banks. The chairman of the credentials committee was Thomas M. Raynor, a Southern Railroad attorney, and who while a member of the State Senate representing the county of Orangeburg continuously kept in his pocket a pass on the Southern Railroad trains. The chairman of the committee on constitution and rules was B. E. Nicholson, of Edgely, a corporation lawyer, son-in-law of Former Governor John C. Sheppard, who failed to get a second term for Governor at the hands of this crowd, and who endeavored to beat B. R. Tillman in 1892. I have not been able to discover who was the chairman of the committee on platform and resolutions, but I presume it was the District Attorney appointed by Senator E. D. Smith, because he, Francis H. Weston, read the report of the committee—another corporation lawyer and also a bank officer, and the representative on the floor of the State Senate of the corporate interests. Then we come to the great spokesman, who himself said that in his own county in the last primary there were 400 stolen votes. I presume he said this because he was defeated for the State Senate in 1910 and for the House in 1912. I refer to William N. Graydon, who was a Hasskellite of the bitterest type, and who, I am informed, sat on the floor of the convention that he knew there was fraud in the last primary and yet when asked the question if he prosecuted anybody for any of this fraud, could only answer, "No"—and when the investigating committee went to Abbeville, or made inquiry of the Abbeville people—their own committee—they refused to furnish the club rolls to that committee in order that the Abbeville primary might be investigated. Yet here is this great Hasskellite, he who, with his associates, has appealed to the negro before, hollering fraud among the white people of our State.

And the chairman of the State Democratic Executive Committee, re-elected by the convention—John Gary Evans, four times repudiated by the people as a candidate for the United States Senate—leading counsel in this State for the Western Union Telegraph Company and other corporations; and elected for Vice-President, W. F. Stevenson, of the famous investigating committee of 1912, bank president, railroad attorney, and commonly known as "Seaboard Bill."

We find further in this convention many other lawyers and officers of corporations; but I want to ask you, out of the great county of Spartanburg, and the great county of Anderson and the great county of Greenville, with their very large farmer vote and their enormous cotton mill vote, how many farmers were sent as members of the Spartanburg, Anderson and Greenville delegation?—how many cotton mill men were in either delegation? How many farmers were there? These people who love them so much, these people who are going to raise the price of cotton to fifteen cents—did they allow these farmers to sit as delegates in this convention? How many cotton mill men were among the delegates? How many laboring men were there? Sift your convention thoroughly and you will find it composed of corporation lawyers, corporation officers and corporation stockholders. I could call them all, but it is useless. If these men who were in charge of the club meetings and the county conventions were such lovers of the interests of the people, when they had absolute control of these county conventions why didn't they elect some cotton mill men to represent themselves on the floor of the State convention?—why didn't they elect some farmers?—why didn't they elect some poor men? No; they only wanted the rich, the corporation lawyers and the corporation officers, in order that they might strike the poor man, I notice in the Senatorial obituary of Senator Smith that he puts himself down, not as a farmer, but as a "planter." I presume it was these associates of his—these "planters"—that they wanted, and not the plain farmers.

Now, look at their committees. They said, "Let's have no factionalism," they said, "Let's deal fairly,"—yet look at their committees: Committee to prepare the books of enrollment—Willie Jones; next Neils Christensen, the senator from Beaufort, whose father was captain of a negro company in the Union Army, and fought the Confederate soldiers—that is the man who is to regulate the white man's primary in South Carolina; Christie Benet, the son-in-law of Alex. C. Hasskell, the man who bolted the Democratic party and appealed to the negroes to defeat Tillman as the Democratic candidate of the people of this State. So with

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